



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item	6
Agenda Item No.	
City Manager's Approval	

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Keith Nesbitt, Council Member
Date: January 28, 2013
Subject: Tiles Recommendations from SHAAC

The Issue

Shall the council approve the recommendations from the Streetscape History and Art Advisory Committee (SHAAC)?

Conclusion and Recommendations

By MOTION:

- 1) Approve 2 applications for tiles; Annabell McCord in Central Square, and Michael Goodwin in the Arts Zone (Preferably the State Theater).
- 2) Approve 10 names for tiles in and around Central Square for future etching:
 - A) 3 tiles that highlight significant landmarks; Bloomer Cut, Foresthill Bridge, and Mountain Quarries (No-Hands) Bridge.
 - B) 1 tile honoring the Auburn Hook and Ladder Company
 - C) 3 tiles that honor people of Historical Significance; The Yue Family and the Shanghai, Frederick Birdsall, and Charles Tuttle.
 - D) 1 tile in the Art Zone (possibly near Hilda's Bakery) Dr. Ken Fox
 - E) 2 tiles in Sport Zone (In front of Wells Fargo) Jeff Hamilton and Roy Mikkelsen
- 3) Approve in concept or provide consensus on Third Interpretive Sign at Central Square
- 4) Approve in concept or provide consensus on a Monument Sign honoring living citizens
 - A) Provide direction to Arts Committee on Monument Sign
- 5) Continue Street Names to the February 25, 2013 City Council Meeting

Background

The SHAAC has met on several occasions over the last few months to discuss tiles and street naming.

Discussion:

At the January 16th SHAAC there were 2 presentations on applications submitted for tiles in Central Square; Annabell McCord and Michael Goodwin.

After some deliberation SHAAC members felt that Annabel McCord was worthy of a tile in Central Square. She had a business in Central Square for many years, and had a lifetime of contributions to the Auburn Community. Add the extra interest of her being a lead Parliamentarian in the state, SHAAC felt she was a good story to tell.

SHAAC decided that without Michael Goodwin, Auburn probably would not have had a symphony. SHAAC felt he deserved a tile, but felt he was better suited for the Art Zone, preferably in front of the State Theater. Both SHAAC and the applicant realized that this would entail saw-cutting some existing concrete for the tile, purchasing the tile, and engraving the tile. This would make it more costly to the applicant, and Council could have Public Works work with the applicant to reduce cost wherever possible.

SHAAC members discussed the 10-20 names that will be brought forth to the Council for future consideration. These names would be pre-approved, and would be engraved in Central Square as soon as the name had a sponsor or sponsor group capable of funding the installation. After many debates about names, SHAAC members decided to take a different approach. SHAAC members decided that names, events, or landmarks that would provide a partial story of Auburn's past and be entertaining to both visitors and residents alike, would be submitted to the City Council for their consideration.

When discussing landmarks, 3 stood out above the rest for SHAAC members; Bloomer Cut, Foresthill Bridge, and Mountain Quarries Bridge. Bloomer Cut told a story of the railroad and Chinese labor that dug the cut that allowed rail passage. Foresthill Bridge was considered the highest in the nation at one point, and still is a major point of interest, even gaining fame by being filmed for major motion pictures. Mountain Quarries Bridge has both a historical and aesthetic interest. Once, it was the crossing for the railroad, and now an icon for canyon hikers.

One other entity gained unanimous approval after a short discussion. SHAAC members felt that no story was more intriguing and told history better than the Auburn Hook and Ladder Company, from the early days of all volunteer fire departments, to the traditions of Roll Call Dinners and antique fire trucks, it is a draw for visitors from near and far.

SHAAC members also decided that there were 3 names that stood out from the pack that deserved consideration. The Yue family and the Shaghai, once the oldest continually owned business in the state, Charles "Charlie" Yue was the kingpin of Old Town Auburn, he was a saloon keeper, a gold buyer, a boot-legger, a money lender and was known throughout the entire community for his humanitarian deeds. Frederick Birdsall took over the Bear River Ditch used for mining needs and created the first large irrigation project in the County. He constructed the Auburn City water supply system and was widely known for his olive orchard in Aeolia Heights. Charles Tuttle was an original

49'er, he settled many a dispute among miners in the early days. He was a prominent lawyer in Auburn and was a State Senator and the Reporter for the State Supreme Court. He was highly regarded in the community.

Dr. Ken Fox's name had been suggested by several people when SHAAC asked for nominations from the community a few years ago. Dr. Fox's statues are a huge draw for visitors and residents alike, and create an interest in the history of Auburn. SHAAC felt that Dr. Fox was suitable for the Art Zone.

SHAAC members have been in the process of developing a theme for the third Interpretive Sign in Central Square. It was decided that a caricature-type map could be created, with distinct buildings in town being noted, some with pictures. It was hoped that this may entice visitors and residents to walk Auburn to view the structures. Approximately 10 of the 26 buildings would have pictures blown up on the map, with other significant structures being noted in a narrative form between them. A map, drawn by Jan Cappel several years ago was used as an example of the caricature-type map, but it was felt a similar map with the orientation "from" Central Square would be more appropriate. SHAAC is working to bring a mock-up of the final product to Council at the Feb. 25th meeting, but wanted approval in concept, or consensus to continue before pursuing any further.

During a discussion a few meetings ago about an application submitted for a tile for Norma Harris, SHAAC members started to develop an idea for honoring outstanding citizens, who were still living and deserved recognition, but do not meet the criteria that council gave for Central Square. SHAAC members came up with the idea for a monument sign, perhaps placed in front of old city hall, now the home of the California Welcome Center. The monument would be available for an "Auburn Hall of Fame" and could honor one to several persons annually in an unveiling celebration. SHAAC thought the Arts Commission should be responsible for the aesthetics of the plaques or engravings, as well as the aesthetics for the monument. SHAAC is seeking approval in concept or a consensus to continue pursuing this effort, and for Council to provide direction to the Arts Commission.

SHAAC has continued to develop a list of names appropriate for street naming, but also are pursuing themes for the Baltimore Ravine Development. Over several meetings, SHAAC has decided upon several themes for the names and have chosen names within each theme for council consideration.

Theme 1 – Railroad: Bloomer Cut, Sierra Grade, Hercules, Tamaroo, Excelsior, Eureka, Rattler, Racer, Wood Tender, and Single Track. Some were names of famous engines, others were names of railroad related terms.

Theme 2 – Family Names: Freeman, Lukens, Lardner, Campbell, Tsuda, Roseberry, Holmes, May Perry, Judge Myres, and Bloomer Cut. These were names of multi-generational families that helped shape Auburn's history.

Theme 3 – Mining: Gold Dust, Bed Rock, Nugget, Stamp Mill, Pay Dirt, Shanghai, Hard Rock, and Bloomer Cut.

Theme 4 – Nisenan: As of this date the Nisenan Historical Preservation Committee is making recommendations to the Tribal Council for approval. Once those names have been approved and brought to SHAAC, they will be relayed to Council.

NOTE: SHAAC feels that Council may want to discuss the names already brought forward, but thinks Council should continue any decision until we have the names for the 4th theme.

ALSO NOTE: SHAAC members felt strongly that regardless of the theme and names selected, “Bloomer Cut” should be a major artery in the new Baltimore Ravine project.

Financial Impact:

None for tiles, as they will be approved for future sponsorship by individuals or groups.

Nominal fees that may be incurred to develop mock-ups for the Third Interpretive Sign and the Monument Sign are yet to be determined. SHAAC hopes to have an estimate for the Third Interpretive Sign by the time Council meets on Jan. 28th.

Alternate Motions:

Deny SHAAC recommendations